

Peace of Mind through Art

The Butler VA's Education Department held its first Memorial Day Art Showcase in May, collecting and displaying artwork related to the importance of the holiday. Over 35 pieces were submitted by Veterans, employees, family members, and local school classes.

U.S. Army Veteran Ray Leonard who resides at the Butler VA Domiciliary submitted art for this special display. He also painted and gave two of his pieces to the facility. For Ray, painting and art are new. He started just within the last few months, but finds these activities to be "the most relaxing and calming thing" he has ever tried.

"I can literally sit for hours with my paints and a canvas and just do my thing and be as relaxed and satisfied as anything I have ever done. I also am an avid wood worker, but nothing comes close to this," he shared.

Nationwide, VA medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Ray encourages other Veterans to give art a try because it gives him more peace of mind than therapy sessions and recovery meetings.

"I feel it [art] is a way to express your feelings and to work through a lot of them by just expressing yourself whether it be by painting, drawing, pottery, or any other form of art you may like. It is truly an outlet to your soul.



I have never done something that has given me more satisfaction than painting."

All artwork is currently displayed in the library for anyone interested in viewing it. Photos from the showcase, including Ray's submissions, are available on the Butler VA's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/VAButlerPA.

The Butler VA encourages art as therapy and is providing free creative arts workshops for Veterans throughout the summer. The Education Department looks forward to hosting more art showcases in the future. Learn more about the current creative art offerings by visiting the Butler VA Facebook page, or calling 878-271-6484.



Manage Care Online

If you're signed up for the VA health care program, you can manage your VA health and benefits online:

- Refill your prescriptions (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/refill-track-prescriptions/>)
- Send a secure message to your health care team (<https://www.va.gov/health-care/secure-messaging/>)

You also can check the status of a disability or pension claim online. Check your claim status (<https://www.va.gov/?next=%2Ftrack-claims%2F>)

Enroll today! www.choose.va.gov.

SAVE THE DATE: Creative Arts Festival is September 24

The Butler VA will host a Veterans Creative Arts Festival on Friday, September 24. First place winners will compete in the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition (<https://www.blogs.va.gov/nvspse/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>). Veterans should call 878-271-6484 if they have questions.



MY HEALTHVET ADVANCED TO BE DISCONTINUED

My HealthVet, VA's online patient portal, provides access to your VA health information so you can understand and manage your VA care. In September, My HealthVet Advanced accounts will be discontinued and revert to Basic accounts unless you upgrade to Premium. Basic accounts do not have pharmacy features and do not let you request or track VA prescription refills. Premium accounts do and there is no cost to upgrade to Premium!

Three ways to upgrade

If you have an Advanced account, you can upgrade to Premium in person, online, or through a video appointment.

If you want to upgrade in person or through a video appointment, contact the Butler VA My HealthVet coordinator at (878) 271-6963. Ask about upgrading to a Premium account.

To upgrade online, use your DS Logon Premium or ID.me secure sign-in credentials. Learn about the online upgrading process on the My HealthVet blog post (<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mbv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/upgrading-your-my-healthvet-account-through-in-person-or-online-authentication>).

Get more information

Visit the My HealthVet website (<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mbv-portal-web/home>), watch the My HealthVet Premium video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87dt_z8LeRM), or contact the Butler VA My HealthVet coordinator at (878) 271-6963.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE - GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE TODAY

Protecting Veterans, our staff, and those in the community, remains VA's top priority during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this commitment, we are currently following many COVID-19 variants, and expect to see more variants arise.

Have you gotten your first dose and don't think you need your second? Consider this: The Delta variant most severely impacts those who are either unvaccinated or who only received their first of a two-dose vaccine series. If someone is late for their second dose, they should still get it.


If you are undecided about getting the vaccine and need more information, check out our Vaccine Questions page (<https://www.va.gov/initiatives/have-questions-before-you-get-your-covid-19-vaccine/>), which includes videos, downloadable information and answers to frequently asked question.

JUST LAUNCHED: ALL-NEW BUTLER VA WEBSITE

The Butler VA just launched a new website that gives you better service and an easier online experience. Visit the Butler VA's new website: <https://www.va.gov/butler-health-care/>. The old website is no longer functional, and you will automatically be directed to the new site. It's all part of our continuing work to improve the Veteran experience.

ARE YOU POSITIVE?

Some STIs don't cause any symptoms.
Talk to your provider about getting checked.



ARE YOU POSITIVE?

Some sexually transmitted infections (STIs) don't cause any symptoms. VA is here to remove uncertainty from the question, Are You Positive? Schedule an appointment with your VA provider to get checked for STIs and HIV today or call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at 1-855-829-6636 for more information.

SALUTE YOU

Thank You for Your Service STEVE IMAN, U.S. MARINE CORPS



**Military Police
2001-2008**
Attached with 1/7,
Steve's company
participated in the
invasion from
Kuwait to Baghdad.

His second deployment was in Al Qaim.
His platoon of 28 received 10 purple
hearts and many awards.

Let us "Salute You!" Contact the Butler VA
Public Affairs Office for more information.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Butler VA Health Care System



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